

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**

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**NEWS**

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## **House Approves Measure to Strengthen National Energy Policy**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Representative Wally Herger commented on the passage of H.R. 6, the "Energy Policy Act of 2005." The bill seeks to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil, modernize our aging power grid, and provide incentives to increase new sources of energy production in the U.S. Additional details on the specific measures follow this page. Congressman Herger had the following to say.

"In northern California we are all too familiar with high gas prices and rolling blackouts, two key indicators of the need to modernize our nation's energy policy," Herger stated. "In our state alone, the price of gasoline has increased nearly seventy cents per gallon since January. And when we pay more at the pump, our economy and standard of living declines."

"Energy security is quickly becoming a primary long-term national security concern. In addition, our dependence on foreign energy, often from developing nations, means we unnecessarily forgo the economic benefits of job creation and supply stability from developing energy sources on American soil. The energy bill would provide a number of incentives I strongly supported to encourage companies to develop domestic energy resources, through grants to encourage forest biomass electricity generation and improvements in the needlessly long, bureaucratic and costly hydroelectric re-licensing process. The measure would also allow environmentally sound oil and gas exploration in the Arctic Coastal Plain."

"Another part of the problem is our diminishing refining capacity. No new oil refineries have been built in the U.S. since 1976, even as our dependence on specialized 'blends' of gasoline, such as those we're required to use in California, has increased dramatically. The energy bill gets at these problems by providing a streamlined process for new refineries, limiting the number of boutique fuels, and providing flexibility for supply emergencies."

"Passage of a comprehensive national energy policy has been a top priority for the President for over four years. While not a perfect bill, the Energy Policy Act goes a long way toward addressing the energy challenges facing our nation. I believe it is time to overcome the partisan differences preventing passage, and approve this common sense energy modernization."